

PCQC Video Presentation

Fundamentals of Photography II with Joel Sartore—National Geographic

Lesson 16: Elevating Your Perspective: Photos From Above

Aerial photography (AF) is a favorite of many photographers. AF can clean up a shot and is perfect for large crowds or expanses of land. The ground frequently becomes the background in AF images.

Lesson Takeaways

- AF lets you see the world from a different vantage point; however the rules of composition remain the same.
- Your background in AF shots will be the ground, floor, grass, water etc. These backgrounds make for good shots because they are not messy or cluttered.
- Ways to get up off the ground to take AF shots:
 - Simply standing and shooting down with a wide angle lens.
 - Roof of tall building/tower (good for parades, demonstrations).
 - Use a drone.
 - From an airplane. Airplanes (\$500/hr) with wings above the aircraft are best. Watch for struts. Tell pilot to stay slow and low. Use wide angle lens to show expanses of land.
 - From helicopter (\$1000/hr).
 - Utility truck or cherry picker.
 - Other ideas include staircases, office/hotel windows, church balconies, grandstands, backyard decks, hilltops, ladders, bridges, etc.

Assignment

- Be creative in finding a cheap spot for aerial photography. Notice ground level elements and how they provide a background for your image. Keep in mind the elements of composition and that you still need a good subject to photograph.